



Washington Commission for National and Community Service

Executive Director, Bill Basl
Debbie Schuffenhauer, Associate Director
(360) 902-0669 - office
(360) 628-6090 – cell
debbie.schuffenhauer@ofm.wa.gov
www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa/



Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs

Director John E. Lee
Heidi Audette, Communications Director
(360) 725-2154 – office
(360) 791-8966 – cell
heidia@dva.wa.gov
www.dva.wa.gov

For Immediate Release

Date: June 7, 2012

Vet Corps Receives AmeriCorps Grant to Serve Veterans on Campuses

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) was awarded \$650,000 from the Corporation for National and Community Service to continue the Vet Corps program.

The Vet Corps is an AmeriCorps program which began in 2009 in partnership with the Washington Commission for National and Community Service. Its focus is on helping veterans navigate Washington's college and university campuses. Vet Corps members act as on-campus guides for student veterans and provide practical advice and assistance to resources both on and off-campus.

"Last year Vet Corps members were in contact with over 3,000 veterans, active duty members or their families," said Mark Fischer, Vet Corps Program Manager. "Vet Corps members provided referrals to community resources, and ultimately helped keep students on track so they could take advantage of their GI Bill education benefits. Veterans are a dedicated and determined group of individuals and this program serves as a guide, a resource and sometimes even a safety-net if the transition from servicemember to college student doesn't go as smoothly as it should."

The new grant funds fifty full-time Vet Corps members at colleges and universities throughout Washington State. Vet Corps members receive a monthly stipend of \$1,210 and a \$5,550 education voucher at the end of the term, which runs from September 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

In addition to their college responsibilities, Vet Corps members are investing in their communities by participating in quarterly community service projects. Last year, over 1,000 hours were donated in communities throughout the state. Projects range from a monthly movie night at the Ronald McDonald House, to habitat restoration projects and home building or remodeling projects with Habitat for Humanity or Rebuilding Together.

-more-

For veteran students who would like to find out if your school has a Vet Corps member, contact Program Manager Mark Fischer at markf@dva.wa.gov.

For businesses or community organizations interested in getting involved, contact Mark Fischer at markf@dva.wa.gov to find out how you can help. Your business or organization could provide a pizza night for a Campus Veterans Club, or give the Vet Corps ideas for local community service projects.

Many of Washington's Colleges and Universities are now listed as Partners for Veteran Supportive Campuses. This means faculty and administrators have undergone veteran cultural competency training and the school has a supportive veterans program in place. More information on the Partners Program is available at:
http://www.dva.wa.gov/veteran_campuses.html

AmeriCorps funding is awarded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. Each year, the Corporation engages four million Americans of all ages and backgrounds through its Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America programs. For more information, visit NationalService.gov.

For more information, visit us online at:

Washington Commission for National and Community Service,
www.ofm.wa.gov/servewa

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, www.dva.wa.gov

###